

Jefferson Primary School
Lander Road at Maryland Route 180,
southeast corner of intersection
Jefferson
Frederick County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-899

HABS
MD,
11 JEFF
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY Frederick	TOWN OR VICINITY Jefferson
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Jefferson Primary School		HABS NO. MD-899
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Lander Road at Maryland Rt. 180, southeast corner of intersection Formerly 36 Main Street, Jefferson, Maryland		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) circa 1924	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) None of record Contractor: Promise Company, Frederick Co., Md.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Modest rural version of early twentieth century school modernization movement.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) 12" solid masonry exterior bearing walls; one story and basement; wood floor joists and roof framing; metal sheet shed roof		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, 58'4" x 69'10"		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Brick exterior walls with darker brick belt course above and below windows; parapet on front and sides; arched front and rear entries; two series of five 9/9 sash windows on each side wall		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Four equally sized classrooms, each with cloakroom at one end running full width of room		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES None		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Abandoned 1968 by School Board; badly gutted and deteriorated		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) "Jefferson 1774-1947" published by Jefferson Ruritan Club		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Keith Williams & Associates, Architects, agent for Bank of Brunswick, owner		DATE June 1, 1981

HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF PROPERTY

Jefferson is a village of approximately 500 persons, dating back to the early 1800s and is located in a rural agricultural area close to the towns of Brunswick, Middletown, and Boonesboro. The town once provided a coach stop for travelers on Route 180.

The present building was erected circa 1924, though there are reports of a prior school building on the same site.

- 1841 - Andrew Kessler and wife conveyed by Deed of Trust a 108' x 266' lot at 36 Main Street (present Md. Rt. 180) to Jefferson District School Trustees, approximately 108 ft. on Main Street and 266 ft. on Lander Road.
- At that time a two classroom frame school was erected on the site to serve elementary grades.
- 1858 - A two room frame structure was added to the second floor of above as a local Jefferson District high school and continued to serve in this capacity until 1914 when high school classes were transferred to other locations and the property continued to be known as Jefferson Elementary School.
- 1924 - In 1924 it was razed and a new school (the subject building) was erected and occupied for classes circa 1926. (One retired construction man who had worked on this structure reports that it was erected by Promise Company, Builders, of Frederick County, Maryland. *2).
- 1968 - In this year The Jefferson School was abandoned by The Frederick County School Board as an operating school and was sold to Frederick Properties Company of Frederick County, Maryland. (It is presumed that at some time between the 1841 conveyance and the 1924 erection of subject building that The District School Trustees System was combined to form The Frederick County School Board of Frederick County, Maryland.)
- 1971 - Property conveyed by Frederick Property Company to St. John's Council Homes, Inc. (Knights of Columbus). They occupied the premises for nine years.
- 1980 - Property conveyed by St. John's Council Homes, Inc. to The Bank of Brunswick, Brunswick, Maryland, the present owners.
- * Biography data provided by a local publication by The Jefferson Ruritan Club, History and Building Committee, entitled "Jefferson 1774-1974" and edited by Jay N. Ballentine, Jr.
- *2 Other references as to property name, the possible existence of some interior photographs of significance, etc. by local historian's memory contribution.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION AND EXISTING STRUCTURAL CONDITION

A) Description

The subject building is one story and basement, brick construction, 53' x 69' and situated on a corner lot of .595 acres. The first floor elevation is six and one-half feet ($6\frac{1}{2}'$) above adjacent grade.

The exterior walls are twelve inch (12") brick from footings to roof line, with 8" brick parapets extending above the roof on three sides.

Floor framing is 3" x 12" rafters, diagonal wood sub-flooring, tongue-and-groove pine finished floor.

Roof construction is wood ceiling and roof joists trussed over two load bearing wood stud-corridor walls, running North-South.

Interior face of outside walls is plastered directly to brick. Interior walls are wood studs, expanded metal lath and plaster.

Ceilings are 4' x 4' sheets of fibreboard trimmed at joints with $\frac{1}{4}"$ x $1\frac{1}{4}"$ wood lath and nailed directly to ceiling joists.

The basement walls supporting above corridor walls are 8" brick.

The original hot-water radiation heating system has been completely removed - piping, radiators and boiler.

The first floor is subdivided into four equal classrooms, each with a cloakroom space.

The original plumbing was also removed, though the same tenants have installed a make-shift lavatory and water closet in basement.

In addition, the same tenants have accomplished some partitioning and paneling in the basement.

The roof is a sloping, built-up roof draining to gutter and downspouts at South end of building.

B) Building Condition

Our investigation of the building condition discloses the following:

- 1) There is severe water penetration thru the basement walls resulting in considerable damage. It is apparent that there exists a relatively high water table under basement construction.

Large areas of concrete floor are riddled with thru-slab crackage, resulting in water penetration. Due to leakage and lack of ventilation, walls, floor, some ceilings and wood joists are covered with mildew. A very old sump-pump suggests the problem has existed for some years, possibly since the building's erection. Other than a boiler room, it is apparent that the basement area served no major use. It is difficult to believe that this continued wall penetration has not contributed to some degree of masonry deterioration.

- 2) The first floor exterior walls show evidence of water penetration from two sources - 1) thru the masonry and 2) from the poor flashing at exterior parapets.
- 3) The windows, though boarded from vandalism and weather, are in an extremely depleted state.
- 4) Though the original masonry mortar was (and is) a very rich-mix Portland cement mortar, the original workmanship was haphazardly executed. Obviously, the mortar joints were not bedded evenly and sufficiently; neither were they cut flush nor struck. Hence, the entire wall is a maze of small interstices held together by brick and mortar, through which water penetration is highly probable. The only exceptions are the three half-brick arches over the doorways where some care seems to have been exercised. The face brick is smooth, pinkish and appears to be hard-burned.
- 5) The concrete walks and stairs seem in sound condition.
- 6) The sloping roof and flashings are very near total deterioration and persistent leakage has possibly done some damage to roof framing.
- 7) Apparently, in an effort to relieve thru-wall leakage, a sharp earth slope was installed to divert water away from exterior walls.
- 8) The first floor is badly littered with junk and debris. Areas of plaster are completely missing. Doors and jambs are badly damaged or missing.
- 9) There was fire damage to the roof (South end) of building which has been partially repaired.
- 10) Some windows have been removed and sloppy brick patch work used to fill the openings.